INTO THE POOL

Poetic Prophecy

It was TUBBY who lighted upon the poem by ARTHUR HUGH CLOUGH which seems to express so perfectly the spirit which carried Sir FRANCIS CHICHESTER around the world in *Gipsy Moth IV*. With pleasure we publish it on the inside cover, usually the contents page, which this month is to be found on cover page 3. Copies of the poem, suitable for framing, written in fine old English script by Mr. NORMAN ROMER, a friend of Tubby's, can be obtained through Regional staff.

New Warden at Botha's Hill

We can now tell you a little more about JIMMY HALL, whose appointment as successor to DON MCKENZIE as warden of the T.B. Settlement for Africans at Botha's Hill, Natal, we announced in March. JAMES MACAULEY HALL is a Glaswegian by birth, educated at Hutchinson's Boys' Grammar School. He grew to manhood during the Depression years of the nineteen-thirties, and after a spell of farming in Perthshire joined the Glasgow Police and served for the next fifteen years, mostly in Glasgow's East End, where doubtless he saw the effects of bad housing and tuberculosis at very close quarters. He was there throughout the blitz in World War II.

In 1950 he followed the lady of his choice out to Rhodesia, and he and ANNE were married in Bulawayo. There followed some thirteen years of tobacco farming and mixed farming in Zambia, during which time he developed a respect and affection for the continent of Africa and its peoples.

So it will be seen that James Hall brings to Botha's Hill the experience and attitude which fit him to continue the tradition set by Don McKenzie. To Jimmy and Anne we send our good wishes and the promise of our prayers for a long and happy wardenship.

Incidentally we hear that Don has been made an *Induna* by the local Zulus. When we recall that as an infant Don was suckled by a chieftain's wife in a Zulu *Kraal* and that he speaks their language fluently, we can feel sure that this rare bestowal of chieftainship is the happiest imaginable fulfilment of his lifetime's devotion to their service.

Virtues of Necessity

One of our regular correspondents is a member of ripe years who never fails to look on the bright side. Some time ago he wrote: "As the wife is laid up I'm having to do the cooking. There's nothing like pastry-making for getting your hands clean". And now comes a further letter from him which reads: "I've started digging an old lady's garden at the back of our house, it was either that or a new pair of trousers—I've outgrown my thirty-six inch waist." You can't beat it!

Headline News

In recent months our pages have contained various expressions of opinion about the importance of keeping Toc H wide open to all sorts and conditions of men (and presumably women too). So perhaps we should welcome as the shape of things to come these bold headlines in a recent Somerset local paper: "Street Women's Toc H."

Organ Voluntary

Between the two World Wars, when Dr. ALBERT SCHWEITZER came to London on one of his all-too-rare visits, for the purpose of recording some of Bach's organ music, there were some pieces which he insisted he would only play on the famous old Renatus Harris organ of All Hallows, our Guild Church. That organ, alas, was destroyed in the blitz, but there are still people fortunate enough to possess some of these 'originals'; they were transferred to LP on Columbia COLC 89 — Great Recordings of the Century — and reissued in 1963. A most informative booklet is included with the record.

All this is recalled by the news that Professor GORDON PHILLIPS, the present organist of All Hallows, has been making a number of recordings on the church's present splendid organ for the series "Great Organists and Masterworks of Our Time" promoted by Cathedral Recordings Ltd.

Gordon Phillips has been so unassuming a man throughout his twelve years at All Hallows that one needs to be reminded that he is one of the great virtuoso performers and authorities of our time. How else could he be Professor of Organ and Harpsichord at the London College of Music and be regarded as Britain's leading authority on the interpretation of all early keyboard music ?

It is intriguing to know that, in order to achieve acoustical perfection, these recordings were made at two o'clock in the morning when the subterranean rumblings of the nearby Underground trains had ended for the night. Even so, we hear that the ready co-operation of the All Hallows staff and the recording engineers made it a happy experience for all concerned. Full particulars of the recordings by Professor Phillips of 17th, 18th and 19th century English church music may be obtained from Cathedral Recordings Ltd., High Street, Eton, Windsor, Berks. It is hoped that, when available, the records will be on sale in All Hallows.

Well Held, Sir!

ARTHUR FREEMAN of Loughton Branch, Essex, is a coach proprietor. One Sunday recently he was at Hever Castle in Kent when he noticed a small girl of about five playing dangerously near a steep-sided pond. He decided to keep a watchful eye on her and sure enough, seconds later, in she fell. He dashed across and by the time he got to the water's edge all that was visible of the little girl was one hand above the water. He soon hauled her out, scared, but little the worse, though there is not much doubt that but for Arthur's vigilance she would have drowned.

When twins were christened in the Tower of London, Yeoman Warder Geoffrey Gavey, an East London Area member (right) found himself holding the baby. Now he has retired to live in Jersey. Photo: Daily Mirror.

Artistic Gift

The fifteenth annual open exhibition of the Hertford Art Society was held in May and this year Toc H was the beneficiary. The net proceeds, which included 20% of all sales, approximated to £160, the highest sum ever raised by the Society for any cause.

The Chairman of the Society, Col. John Davies, a member of the Central Executive and its onetime Chairman, who had a number of exhibits, was also an exhibitor in this year's Summer Exhibition of the Royal Academy and of the Paris Salon. To him, to the Society and to its generous patrons, Toc H is indebted for a pleasant and profitable tribute.

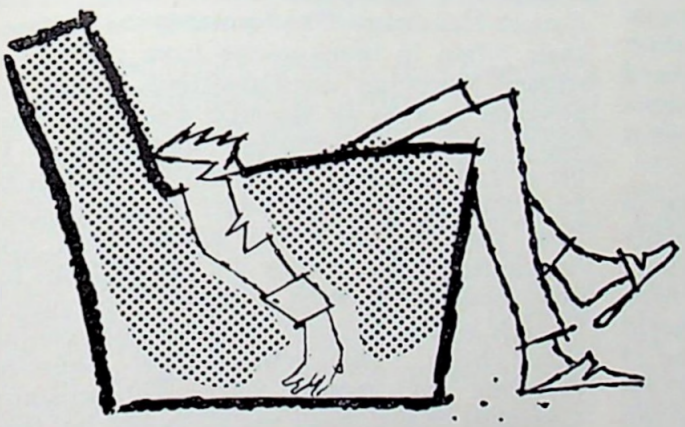
Exit and Entry

This being the last issue of the JOURNAL that I shall be responsible for I trust that readers will allow me this once the privilege of changing from the editorial "we" to something a little more personal. Getting to know the hazards and hardships of the editorial life over these last four years has been an experience I shall always value. No Toc H editor ever gets all that he hopes for, but like most men he should be thankful he never gets his deserts. At least at the end of each month he has something to show for his efforts, even if that seems a remote possibility during the earlier days of the month. To all who have come to the rescue and helped the miracle to happen eleven times a year I am very grateful.

I welcome as my successor KENNETH PRIDEAUX-BRUNE who. to quote every chairman, "needs no introduction." As joint leader of the Projects Centre, as organiser of the Winant and Clayton Volunteers, and as Joint Editor of the *New Forum* for the past three-and-a-half years he has already made his mark upon Toc H.

He will have as Associate Editor COLIN GIBBS, new to Toc H but whose wide experience in journalism and editorial production will be a strong reinforcement. Colin's knowledge in the field of public relations will also be put to good use in working alongside COLIN CAMPBELL, our Public Relations Secretary. To this new Editorial team, which will see our present JOURNAL out at the end of the year and bring in the new Joint periodical next January, I offer my warm good wishes for a very happy innings.

JOHN CALLF



Ernie says:

Having a bucket at the door gave us quite a nice little profit on our last guest-night. It kept our grub fund going for months.

FROM THE BELOVED COUNTRY

II - Christianity and the Africans

'JANUS'

The writer is a clergyman of British descent teaching in a college for African theological students.

THERE ARE MANY intangible factors in the South African situation, in the assessment of which the acknowledged experts differ widely; the influence of Christianity upon the African people must certainly be placed in that category. The present writer, in giving his own understanding, must confess his main impressions of the problem have been gained through personal contact with the non-white ordinands he has been seeking to train, rather than by direct association with congregations. Furthermore it must be remembered that African congregations vary as much in ethos according to their situation as do those in Britain.

Statistically, Christianity would seem to have made a considerable impact upon the African in the Republic, for two-thirds of the African population acknowledge themselves to be adherents of some Christian communion. On the other hand mere numbers in religious matters are often of very little significance, for history seems almost invariably to show that the driving force in any Christian advance has been small groups of convinced and informed people. Whether there are sufficient convinced and informed people among the Africans for the tasks ahead is something which at present cannot be known.

We still have to consider, however, why so many Africans have felt the need to identify themselves with a Christian communion. There are three main reasons for this: first, that it is common in history for a subjugated people to accept in some form the religion of its conqueror. Secondly, the coming of the European has largely disintegrated the old tribal system, and therefore the traditional faith of the African has ceased to be relevant to him, thus precluding it from putting up any serious ideological resistance to the dissemination of Christian ideas. Finally, many Africans have tended to feel displaced and rootless during the period of rapid social change which has been going on now for some eighty years. This in turn is a predisposing factor towards their acceptance of some religion like Christianity which claims to offer 'salvation'.

It is in relation to this last factor that we must consider the rapid growth of Christian 'sects', whose adherents, according to the 1960 census, numbered 20% of the African population of the Republic. We must remember that there are no particular doctrinal emphases which unite the 'sect' Churches over against the 'main-stream' denominations; there is as much range in belief in these bodies as between Unitarians and Roman Catholics in Britain. Most scholars distinguish three main types of 'sect' Churches: Ethiopian, Pentecostalist, and Zionist-Messianic. The former generally have their origin in break-aways from the 'main-stream' Christian denominations, either for personal reasons or through dislike of what was considered European domination. In belief and practice they generally vary little from that of the parent body, though perhaps they tend to be more conservative and Africanised because they are cut off from the new ideas which must necessarily pervade a Church belonging to an international confessional body. The Pentecostalist Churches resemble in many ways Pentecostalist Churches in European societies, and lay their stress on the gifts of the Spirit, particularly

those of healing and speaking with tongues. Possibly their understanding of the Holy Spirit is more traditionally animistic than that of the European Pentecostal Churches, as their notion concerning the Spirit's nature is drawn rather from African ancestral religion than from the developed doctrine of the Holy Spirit in the 'main-stream' Churches on which Western Pentecostalism naturally tends to draw. The Zionist-Messianic Churches on the other hand tend to stress the upbuilding of a new community for believers, generally centering it around the messianic figure of its founder. This last group of sects tends generally to be the least Christian, as the founder-messiah largely takes the place of Jesus Christ.

The Fringe Cults

It can be seen that the great appeal of the Pentecostal and Zionist Churches is that they offer in the respective ways 'salvation' to their adherents. Such cults necessarily will have their vogue during a period of social turmoil; whether they will be able to survive as the African becomes better educated and adapted to a technological society is a different matter. We must remember that such sectarianism is no African peculiarity— California immediately comes to mind, and we should probably have a similar phenomenon on our hands in Western European society, except for the fact that the average African is still basically a far more religious person, in the sense of feeling obliged to come to terms with the preternatural, as compared with his European counterpart.

More important, however, than speculating about the prospects of African sectarianism is to consider the state of the 'main-stream' denominations. Here it must be admitted that in spite of their numerical hold on the African people, the number of convinced and informed Christians is very small indeed. A great share of the blame for this is to be found in the seemingly inevitable situation the average African minister finds himself in. As so many Africans live perilously close to the 'bread-line', it needs a large number of church members to support financially the services of a minister. As a result, the minister may find himself in charge of a circuit of a dozen preaching stations, scattered over quite a wide area. Inevitably he tends to become largely an administrator and a purveyor of the sacraments and ordinances. Careful pastoral work, the teaching of communicants, youth work, the organization of church social services, and even a systematic teaching ministry through preaching are very difficult if not impossible to accomplish. Very often, because of the lack of sufficient lay-help the minister also finds himself in the invidious position of being solely responsible for church finances including the raising of his own salary, which not only puts a poorly paid individual into great temptation, but has also bred a deep suspicion of ministerial probity in many a lay person's mind.

This, however, is not the only temptation which many ministers have to meet. In the present period of rapid social change the church often does provide some kind of interim community. The minister tends to accumulate some of the respect which formerly went to the chief, and becomes a man of real importance in an area. Many African ministers doubtless use this position with responsibility to the benefit of their neighbours, yet the very fact that such status is possible is an incitement to many who would dearly love to have their dignity enhanced. Moreover, they feel rightly that such a position is temporary and will not automatically maintain itself, and some tend therefore to discourage the layman from playing a part in church affairs, as they regard him as a threat to their own position.

Between the present generation of African ordinands and my own contemporaries a decade or so ago back in Britain there is one very great difference. The majority of ordinands who were contemporary with me were fundamentally dissatisfied with the Church and its life. We disagreed violently concerning the remedies needed, but we were all agreed that something decisive needed to be done. This spirit is largely absent from the African students I teach. They generally tend to be very willing to accept the existing set-up and to work within it. Moreover, they are generally fearful of upsetting their people

even on matters of fundamental theological and pastoral importance. This attitude stems probably from the traditional African understanding of sin, which is thought of not so much in terms of failure in individual responsibility to God, but rather as a matter which disturbs the harmony of society or of oneself. This complaisance is one of the chief threats to the renewal of African churches today.

By and large, we can say the African churches have been theologically barren. It is hard to find among the present ministry those academically capable of training their fellows, and even among the ablest one feels that they are fully extended in appropriating the Christian tradition up to date, let alone carrying it on in making their own distinctive contribution. In fairness, however, perhaps we should not too readily compare the theological achievements of Africans in South Africa with those of West Africa, when one bears in mind the many able men who have left the Republic and the gradual damping down of intellectual activity since the centres of higher education came under the control of the Bantu Education Department.

In the face of this evidence it would be hard to maintain that the African churches as they exist as institutions today have a great part to play in the solution of South Africa's problems. It may be asked, however, whether their indirect influence may not be of considerable value. The aspect of this which comes first to mind is in the field of education. The Church did the basic pioneering work in the African's education and did instil in him his love of schooling—a fact which linguistically is witnessed to by the word *umfundisi*, standing in Xhosa and Zulu for both 'minister' and 'teacher', as similarly does *moruti* in Sotho and Tswana. On the other hand almost all African education today is in the hands of the Bantu Education Department, whose aim is to fit the African for his rôle as the Government views it in society.

Another way in which the Church could have directly influenced future developments would be in providing the African with a 'style of life' to replace the one inevitably lost with the break-up of tribal society. The old morality, even if unenlightened, was at least strictly held, but the Church does not seem to have replaced it with a unity of convictions which affect the behaviour of most Africans. The moral code of the majority is haphazard, as one would naturally expect from those who have no ethical landmarks during a period of social upheaval. In spite of the tremendous upset to family and society life caused by the migrant labour system and the Group Areas Act, one feels that the Churches have made very little effort to combat the effects of these disruptive influences and to foster and protect the basic forms of human community.

Measuring the Influence

Once again we are forced to the conclusion that the influence of the Church on the South African situation is likely to be negligible, though we must remember that an impartial observer is likely to come to the same conclusion in regard to the effect of the Church on the problems of society in Europe today. In Europe, however, the Church through the long centuries of Christendom has subtly modified the consciousness of its peoples; it is just this which has not had chance to happen in South Africa.

Yet in this land there are many Africans, though not numerous in regard to the total population, who are Christians of insight and conviction. One thinks of a student, whom few regarded as being in any way outstanding while in college, who has since gone out to a very poor circuit. In order to put this circuit on its feet, and not to be a burden to his people, he has foregone the salary to which he was properly entitled, and has lived on a bare subsistence allowance. One thinks again of a very able and conscientious minister who had to serve on various disciplinary committees. Invariably when it appeared that the other people were going to let off some offender unduly lightly, because he happened to be an African, he would rise to his feet and say: "This is not the way to advance the African people". God can save by the few as well as by the many. He will certainly not save South Africa in a way we would be able to predict, and in that fact lies our main cause for hope.

Roses for Contentment

THE SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS need not be long or arduous for it lies over the threshold of our home, in the little patch of ground we call our garden. Each of us has his preference for individual flowers but the pre-eminence of the rose in popularity in Great Britain has resulted in a membership of 109,000 of the Royal National Rose Society, while the annual sale of bushes is approximately twenty-five million.

These figures suggested to me that if Toc H members could foster a trading scheme for roses it should be possible to grant purchasers a discount and still contribute a portion to the Family Purse. Several suppliers were therefore approached, the most favourable terms being granted by Roseacre Roses of Hemel Hempstead, and a pilot scheme was launched in September 1964. In spite of this late start a ready response from Branches brought in £70. In 1965 sales exceeded £220, and £230 in 1966. The area of sales has extended from the outskirts of London to Tyneside, Cornwall and the Severn Valley.

A garden contractor, one of the supporters, has expressed complete satisfaction with the stock supplied. Several Toc H members act as local agents, centering orders on one address, thereby enjoying carriage paid home terms.

Orders are subject to a discount off the list prices of suppliers. This is shared between the purchaser and the scheme. After expenses have been deducted over £20 has been given to the Family Purse in each of the last two seasons.

When therefore you are in the market for roses for yourself or as a gift, share in the twofold benefit this scheme strives for. For you there is the beauty brought to your garden and for the Family Purse a profit which you will have helped to achieve. All enquiries and requests for order forms should be sent to W. E. Bruton, FRHS, 31 Browning Road, Enfield, Middlesex. (See also "Journal Smalls", cover page 4).

BRUTUS

DOES YOUR ARM SNORE?

Well not quite, but have **you** ever woken up to find your arm "asleep" — numb and temporarily incapable of movement? Think what it would be like if all your limbs were permanently too weak to move. Muscular dystrophy has just that result.

Thousands of young children have this dreadful inherited disease which wastes away muscle. The first symptoms show when they are three.

By the age of 10 most victims have been forced by failing strength into wheelchairs. Many will never live to be 20.

We have 29 doctors and scientists searching for a cure.

Help them in their fight to save life and suffering.

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY GROUP

26, BOROUGH HIGH STREET
LONDON, S.E.1 **HOP 5116**

(We can provide speakers and films)

BASIC MOVEMENT ADVISORY PANELS

COLIN GREGG

One of the highlights of the Central Council Meeting, as reported briefly in the June issue, was Colin Gregg's account of "B.M.A.P." Colin, a young master at Durham School, who first met Toc H through Projects work, here tells us more about it.

AN ORGANISATION which was started on Teesside has done pioneer work in assisting the seriously physically disabled to lead more normal lives. The idea is that a group of experts should co-operate in solving the problems of the handicapped, forming teams together with medical, hospital, engineering and local authority help.

The object of the panels is to restore to the incapacitated the basic mobility necessary to enable them to live a normal life both in their own homes and outside, without the aid of a second person, but where this is not possible, to reduce the amount of help to a tolerable minimum. In this way, to restore to them the will to take a normal place in society. This is no more than the duty of society and must ultimately be accepted in full as a function of the official departments to whom it rightly belongs. However, a vast reservoir of untapped technical, practical and industrial experience exists which, if placed at the disposal of the doctors, hospitals and health authorities in balanced advisory panels, could make a valuable contribution towards the achievement of these aims in the cheapest possible way.

Pooling Experience

The formation of panels of engineers with a wide diversity of experience, backed by the experience of doctors and physiotherapists, and guided by the experience of the incapacitated who have overcome their own difficulty, will produce a team capable, as never before, of producing the latest techniques in a form applicable to each individual problem. The end result of such co-operation will be to produce engineering doctors and engineers with a very real appreciation of medical problems.

The B.M.A.P., by putting their experience of engineering and architectural design for the disabled at the disposal of the local authority, hope to achieve level unaccompanied wheelchair access to all shops, public buildings, places of worship and entertainment, also to all pavements and crossing places.

The group has found that:

1. The new patient knows what he can't but would like to do.
2. The old patient knows what he has already done and what helped him to do it.
3. The doctor/nurse and physiotherapist know what the patient should and should not do but not always the ways and means.
4. Engineers, technicians, tradesmen and many others are used to solving problems in industry and may well be able to help in mobility problems. They are, at least, able to give sound technical and practical advice on installation problems.
5. Together, as a B.M.A.P. team, they can help by sharing experience and knowledge, finding the cheapest and best way of getting the job done quickly either by the Local Authority or by other means. Also by keeping records and making these available to all interested.

Clerks, typists, engineers, designers, technicians, tradesmen and anyone with original ideas (civil, mechanical, electrical or specialized), architects and solicitors are all needed. Volunteers will operate regionally and it is hoped that wherever there is a big enough centre to provide the necessary experience, B.M.A.P. will be formed, and local hospitals and other authorities advised of their availability.

B.M.A.P. are finding that, by adopting a professional approach, they are being welcomed as an advisory body and are even contracting to instal equipment using voluntary or contract labour.

¶ I feel that Toc H should be interested in such a venture for two main reasons. First that on the panel there must be a large mixture of men and women who will be working together as a team and secondly that all the designs are for the individual handicapped. In this way the people working will have individual contact with the handicapped person. Anyone who is interested should contact C. S. Gregg, 3 Linden Road, Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne 3, or G. P. B. Johnson, 26 Grange Avenue, Stockton-on-Tees.

. . . we will remember them

Chellingworth—In May, George Robert Chellingworth, aged 61, a Southern Area member. Elected 1947.

Cunningham—On March 28, Peter Geoffrey Cunningham, aged 65, a Southern Area member, formerly of Mark I. Elected 1923.

Forster—On May 18, Aquila Forster, O.B.E., aged 77, of Green Street Green Branch. Elected 1948.

Hague—On April 18, George Hague, aged 71, of Kirby Muxloe Branch. Elected 1950.

Harris—On April 1, William Harris, aged 91, of Bedwas Branch. Elected 1951.

Holness—In May, Frederick Edward Holness, of Hemel Hempstead Branch. Elected 1950.

Lawrence—On May 10, John Gilbert Lawrence, aged 46, a founder member of Bebington Branch, formerly of Torquay. Elected 1937.

Mills—On May 11, Alfred P. Mills, aged 79, of Bexleyheath Branch, formerly of Erith. Elected 1939.

Rodgers—In February, William Rodgers, aged 69, a Northern Ireland Area member. Elected 1962.

Rodgerson—On April 29, Norman Rodgerson, aged 64, of Houghton-le-Spring Branch. Elected 1961.

Ryder—On May 8, William Frederick Ryder, aged 73, a founder member of Malvern Branch. Elected 1939.

Smith—On April 21, Albert Smith, aged 79, of Southam Branch. Elected 1924.

Surgey—On April 4, Clarence Surgey, aged 70, of Holyhead Branch. Elected 1937.

Turner—On March 19, Reginald Ernest Turner, aged 59, a founder member of Clacton-on-Sea Branch. Elected 1958.

Walkley—On May 1, William H. A. Walkley, aged 82, of Ealing Branch. Elected 1927.

Webb—On May 10, Morley Gerald Webb, aged 65, an East Midlands Area member. Elected 1946.

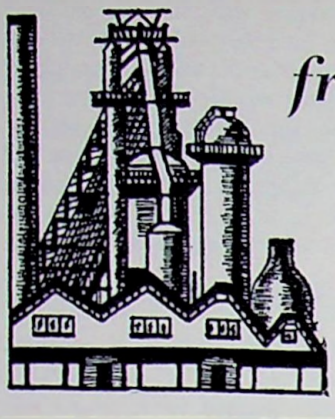
In Memoriam

PETER GEOFFREY CUNNINGHAM

Fellow Toc H members, Scouts of all ages, members of boys' clubs, under-privileged families and many others have benefited from the generous nature of Geoff Cunningham. He served with utter selflessness and with a total disregard for adequate food or sleep. In the 1920's and 1930's he was an indefatigable member of Toc H Tower Hill. He had a lively brain and could easily have remained in a good, safe job, leading to an adequate pension. But he had other ideas!

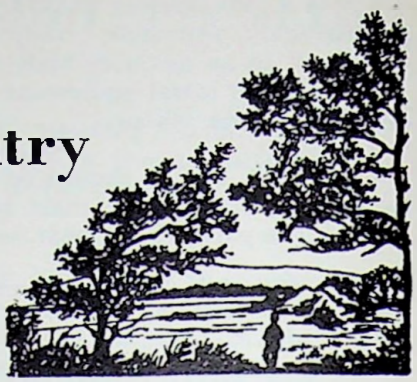
He was a master of both the violin and piano, using his skill to the full in entertaining others. Seated at the piano, with a cigarette balanced precariously on his lower lip, he was the life and soul of any party, especially if it were for poor boys or crippled children. He spent the last years of his life in full-time night work so that he might have the daylight hours for all his voluntary work, and even during the last months of his illness his concern was always for other people and what he might do for them in the future.

G.B.



from town *and* country

News from Areas



MANCHESTER

Once again it was a glorious day for the 17th annual Seven-a-Side Competition run by the Toc H (Manchester) Rugby Football Club on Saturday April 29. Thirty-two teams and many old friends gathered at Didsbury for this festive finale to the rugby season.

Again play was of good standard, the outstanding teams in the first round being the holders, Toc H, De la Salle O.B., Old Aldwinians, Old Bedians and Old Rochdalians. In a close third game Toc H went down 3-5 to Old Bedians, who in turn went down to Old Aldwinians, who beat De la Salle O.B. 6-3 in an excellent final, enhanced by the superb refereeing of Peter Hughes. In the Consolation Competition Croesyceiliog from South Wales put up a fine performance, beating local sides to reach the final but eventually losing 0-11 to Widnes I.C.I.

So Toc H lost the Pennant they won last year and Aldwinians hold it for the first time. A record number of programmes and hot-dogs were sold, so we hope once again to hand over a good sum to the Toc H Children's Holiday Camp Fund.

Derrick Brown

SOUTH WESTERN

The "Oil of Gladness" is met with by everyone who has the privilege of visiting Cornwall. The oil from the *Torrey Canyon* which fouled the beaches and rocks of the beautiful Cornish coastline was, as all the world knows, a disaster without precedent, and not least for the immediate population of those delightful Cornish towns and villages whose very livelihood was threatened by the possible effect the oil could have on the holiday industry.

A major disaster called for major efforts to deal with the oil. These were quickly forthcoming from both national and local sources, and Toc H members were among the first to offer help in the mammoth task of cleaning the beaches.

Porthleven was one of the worst hit areas. The *Torrey Canyon* went aground on Saturday, March 18, and by the following Saturday the harbour, beach and rocks were covered by the thick brown oil. The smell was often more than some could stand.

The local Council soon got to work organising all available help, and from all parts of the country soldiers and firemen arrived to wage a major war against the oil. Conditions within Porthleven resembled those of the war years. It was Easter week-end, very cold, with hail showers and a biting wind. What about feeding these men? Largely through the initiative of a local Toc H member an answer was found.

With the help of the local Methodist Youth Club and Toc H members a canteen was started on the harbour front, supplying hot soup, hot dogs, tea and cakes to soldiers and firemen. At the end of April the canteen was still in operation, the W.R.V.S. having taken over the main responsibility, but with Toc H members still very much involved by

helping to light boilers early every morning, frying sausages and in many other ways.

Other Toc H members in the Special Police Force have been on duty at all hours of the day and night, not least in helping to deal with the increased traffic which brought hundreds of sightseers and threatened to hamper the efforts of workers.

Let Ken Bawden, Secretary of Porthleven Branch, have the final word. He writes: "We have been pleased to render this small service to the soldiers and firemen who have come to help us. I am glad to say that with their help we are beating the oil. We hope that by the summer our Cornish beaches will be clean once more, and please remember that the biggest part of the Cornish coast was not touched by the oil. So please do not cancel your Cornish holiday. Come and enjoy our seaside towns and villages, beaches, rocks and moors. Cornwall can still offer you a wonderful holiday".

REG SMITH

SOUTH WALES & MONMOUTHSHIRE

We in this Area would like to pay tribute to all that George Atkinson has done for us during his time here. At a gathering of about 150 members and friends on April 8 we bade farewell to him and his dear lady, presenting him with a pair of binoculars and Dorothy with a bouquet. Although we were losing a valued colleague, leader and friend, whose genial personality had endeared him to us all, the atmosphere was far from being gloomy or despondent. Even when the crowd tried to squeeze into a room designed to accommodate half the number, the feeling of goodwill still prevailed.

We shall miss George's unbounded optimism and energy, as well as his clear thought and wise guidance. Many too will remember with gratitude the times he and Dorothy entertained us at Dor Knap when George was Warden there.

C. T. EDWARDS

Tonbridge Veterans' Club, centre for some 90 retired men, and in financial straits, was in sorry need of a face lift. One weekend Toc H Branch members and young people from Tonbridge School combined forces to give the old place its first spring clean in seven years Photos: Kent & Sussex Courier.

SOUTH EASTERN LONDON

Modern transport and communications have some surprising effects. With the opening of the Dartford Tunnel THURROCK Branch in Essex found themselves within easy reach of Gravesend and Dartford so decided to join the S.E. London Area. As a representative of that Area I was invited to a reception at Grays to inaugurate a mobile ciné projector which Thurrock Branch had acquired to entertain the old folks and the housebound. It was an exciting experience to see genuine Toc H in action. We have all listened to inspiring talks as to what a Branch can do, and here it all was, large as life. Outside the hall and bearing the Toc H sign was a gleaming coach which is used regularly for excursions for the aged and the handicapped. Inside the hall it was apparent that everyone had turned up to enjoy the launching of a project sponsored by Toc H but in which Rotary, Round Table and the churches all had a hand. One Branch member was a local councillor and obviously regarded that form of service as part of his Toc H work. The Branch had really 'gone to town' in the matter of hospitality, with eats and drinks galore.

The evening ended with the showing of the film *Doctor at Sea*, and as I returned under the river I marvelled that a Branch of just seventeen men could have done so much and brought such happiness to their district. The S.E. London Area has every reason to be proud of its Branch across the Thames.

IVAN TAYLOR

THE NEW EDITORIAL TEAM

The new Editor of the JOURNAL *is Kenneth Prideaux-Brune, M.A. (left), formerly Joint Editor of* New Forum. *With him will be Colin Hugh Gibbs (right), a member of the British Association of Industrial Editors and of the Institute of Journalists. He was previously Public Relations Director for Omar Mobile Homes, Ltd.*

Retired But Not Forgotten

HAROLD CHAINEY

How one General Member "fosters a wide human interest".

AS HE POTTERS ABOUT in his garden the retired chap is bound to think of the days when he left home at the same time each morning and arriving at the office was greeted by the same crowd of colleagues. He will recall not only incidents to do with his job but the people who shared with him the greater part of each day for so many years. He's sure to wonder what's going on there now—perhaps feeling rather cut off and forgotten. Only one of the thousands employed by that large organisation, why should anyone remember him; his ex-colleagues are no doubt too busy with their own lives.

One day in 1962 I was thinking along these lines between telephone calls and realized that although the firm's House Magazine, an excellent publication, went to all retired staff, personal contact between them and the people in their old department was likely to lapse unless someone made a special effort to keep in touch. But there were more retired folk than hours of spare time, so a personal letter to each was out of the question, and in any case it would mean virtually writing the same news to each. The obvious solution was for someone to write some kind of News Letter and get it duplicated. I put the idea to the Head of the Department, who thought there was something in it, and more or less issued a command: "You're just the chap to do it."

So the first issue was duly produced, with this piece of doggerel as its editorial:—

Some wag who shall remain unsung
conceived this bright idea,
To send to you a bulletin about four times
a year.
The purpose of this venture then, is fairly
plain to see,
To keep in touch with Pensioners; that is
if you agree.
We hope to send the latest news about the
people here,
And, in return, your "Letters to the
Editor" will cheer.
This simple truth about yourself between
these lines you'll find,
You may be mostly out of sight, but
seldom out of mind.

This first number also included, under the heading, "Our Parishioners", the names and addresses of all retired members at some time associated with the Department, which prompted some of them to renew acquaintance with each other. There was also a "Prizeless Quiz" with half-a-dozen questions about comic things that had happened and pet sayings for which some in the Department had been famed. This was intended to stir up old memories and the Editor received quite a number of the "I remember" type of letter.

The day after its publication one of our Managers had a telephone call supposedly from the Editor of a big daily paper. The caller said he had seen the News-Letter and would like to get in touch with its Editor with a view to making him an offer. Then the penny dropped and our Manager realised he was speaking to an ex-staff man who had a reputation for showing his appreciation in somewhat unusual ways!

Subsequent issues have included news of the 'senior citizens' taken from their "Letters to the Editor". One wrote saying that each week he was visiting a Home for the Blind to read to them; another told of a former colleague who was using his veteran Bentley to collect jumble for the British Red Cross—"We can almost hear him humming that popular signature tune as he does his 'Step-toe' act, removing unwanted domestic articles from the stately homes of Clacton".

There is usually something new and interesting going on at Head Office, and amusing things too. There was an article headed "The Trials and Tribulations of a Tea-Lady" which read: "With the introduction of wrapped cubed sugar, a harassed typist complained that she hadn't time to do the unwrapping. Bertha, the tea-lady, told her there was no need — 'All you have to do', she said, 'is to drop them into your tea just as they are, the paper'll float to the top and then you can scoop it out with your spoon. And believe it or not,' said Bertha to us, 'the silly b——— did just that!' "

From time to time it is the sad task of the Editor to report the death of a member or ex-member of the staff, sometimes with a short tribute from an old friend or colleague. A junior member wrote in appreciation of a Manager who had died suddenly: "We knew that in the pursuance of his career he spoke several tongues and moved in high places. Yet he could talk the same language as us, live level with us, and remain in himself that much better than us."

In one sense farewell parties can be said to provide the Editor with much happier material as they are invariably high-hearted affairs.

A regular feature is "For Your Commonplace Book", from which I quote the following: "We act as though comfort and luxury were the chief requirements of life, when all that we need to make us really happy is something to be enthusiastic about."

Many readers have written saying how much they look forward to the News-Letter each quarter, probably because they enjoy the reading matter. But the purpose behind this humble effort is not just the sharing of recollections and news—with snippets of beauty, truth and humour thrown in for good measure—but to let our old friends feel that although they are no longer involved in the hustle and bustle of big business, they are not forgotten.

This small venture, embarked upon in the spirit of Toc H, is based on the belief that people really do matter.

The Secular City of God

ST AUGUSTINE completed his *De Civitate Dei* in 426, and Harvey Cox published *The Secular City** in 1965. Though separated by many centuries, and allowing that Augustine's twenty-two volumes make Harvey Cox's one seem a little inadequate, nevertheless they have some significant factors in common. They both seek to interpret God to men who have seen the break-up of a traditional pattern of society. They both concern themselves with the realities of political power, and the place of the Church among the factors that shape men's lives. They are both concerned to help men to relate to that world which lies outside the traditional categories of Christian thought.

But Augustine steers the Christian Ark on the flood-tide. His captains are Emperors and Prince-Bishops who can protect the vessel from the turbulent tides of heresy and lawlessness and maintain the crew in peace, above all, to chart a course through the secular sea—that existence which is marked by extremes of misery and suffering, by suicide, by madness, by "more diseases than any book of medicine can include". For Cox, on the other hand, the Church's vessel is aground in the shallows. We must leave the ship and trust ourselves to the waters, confident that the currents are not sinister but are part of God's purpose to bring us where he would have us be.

Cox sees the period in which we live as that of the city, succeeding the period of the tribe and the town. Here, the basis on which

* *The Secular City*, Harvey Cox, S.C.M. 13s. 6d.

men are brought together is functional rather than traditional. The city is an open community, so man's understanding of life emerges from his experience of the world. He rejects a 'religious' view of life which seeks to impose laws derived from an outside authority, but accepts increasing self-responsibility, and this is well on the way to the goal revealed in Christ—an open community of mature persons. This view does not reject the secular world as evil, but calls on us to accept it as the sphere in which God is at work giving freedom to men.

In this situation, the Church's traditional missionary role must be seen rather differently, and it has three functions, that of preaching, of serving, and of giving fellowship. The first is to proclaim that man is meant to have dominion over the earth and that in Christ the way is open to the defeat of all the powers that hold men back from the attainment of the goal. The Church's function is to indicate where the action is and to summon men to a participation with Christ in His struggle against the enslaving powers and His movement towards the goal of history that He has revealed.

The Church's ministry of service is to be carried on by placing itself in the midst of actual conflict, strife and oppression, and to do this realistically within the structures of modern urban life. This implies political involvement. For Cox, politics have replaced theology as the area within which we should concern ourselves with the things of God. The ministry of fellowship must demonstrate the other two as the group in which the vital message and the service to the world are expressed. It is the place where men can find Christ without coercion.

Cox has a good deal to say on various practical implications of this approach. He is scathing about work projects that are little better than slumming. He has chapters on the secular university and secular sex. Many will find the book difficult, but it will repay the effort. To those for whom Toc H is a vital and liberating experience, it will come as confirmation that what they have known, perhaps in a rough and ready sort of way, in terms of mixtures of men and patterns of friendship, might have much deeper significance as the way men find God in the age in which we live. If we err in being over optimistic, in magnifying our method into universal significance, and in too readily avoiding the Cross as the crux of all real situations, we are in good company, for so does Cox.

Perhaps, afer all, Augustine was right, and the secular city, like the city of God, cannot be realised in human terms because, in the last resort, man is irrational. "For no-one is known to another so intimately as he is known to himself, and yet no-one is so well known to himself that he can be sure as to his own conduct on the morrow".

J. L. G.

Hovis

the golden hearted taste

BOUQUET FOR BLETCHLEY

COLIN WINTLE

HERE'S a 'mixture of men' for you: women and schoolchildren, too. Up in the north-east corner of Bucks a Toc H Branch has made an impact out of all proportion to its modest membership of fourteen.

When BLETCHLEY Branch sought my advice about publicising their Jubilee project of creating a scented garden for the blind I had an instinctive feeling that this might not be a mere run-of-the-mill job, so I went to Bletchley to investigate personally before giving advice or taking any publicity action. I found more, much more, than expected. It seemed to me that Bletchley had come up with a classic example of what a small Branch can do, not least in inspiring others. The project abounded with facets of human endeavour sparked off by the Branch and maintained for two years, culminating with the dedication of the garden by the Rector and its formal opening by the Lord Lieutenant in the presence of a vast concourse which included a couple of hundred invited guests, both blind and sighted. "Culminating"?—well, hardly. A garden must be cared for, and the maintenance of this one is to be the responsibility of the Branch in perpetuity.

The site lies between the pre-Reformation parish church and a small public park, and was once part of the rectory garden. It was made available to Toc H by the Urban District Council whose former chairman follows the ancient and honourable craft of blacksmithing and, in an individual and specialist capacity, has been of great help with the guide-rails leading the sightless towards the flowers. The gate, embodying the Lamp symbol, was given by a local wrought-iron manufacturer. The plants, which grow at waist height in beds supported by brick walls, are identifiable by plaques in letterpress for the sighted as well as in braille, and here also is an example of a mixture of men and their skills, for the braille plaques were devised under the expert direction of a technical assistant of the Royal National Institute for the Blind in London—whose home is at Bletchley. Perhaps the most important aspect of the entire operation was the design of the garden itself, and this could not have been in better hands—the forestry and landscape officer to the Buckinghamshire County Council designed the whole thing in his spare time!

Yet many others besides those offering their own professional techniques have also been identified with the project. It has already been noted—in February's JOURNAL—that pupils at an adjacent school are raising money to help pay for the garden, the total cost of which approaches £1,000 in spite of all that has been given in kind. Three local branches of the Women's Institute have clubbed together to provide one of the four garden seats, the other three having been provided by the Ladies Inner Wheel, the Round Table and an anonymous Toc H member. And to add to the mixture of good neighbourliness inspired by the project, the Branch has received subscriptions from two well-known local personalities: the Duke of Bedford and Mr. Nubar Gulbenkian.

Surely this Branch job can justly be rated as a classic of its kind? Certainly it contained the material for publicity, which it duly received (before the actual opening) both in the newspaper and the periodical press: the gardening journals took a lively interest, as did those concerned with blindness. Yet Bletchley Branch (probably in common with many others) are perplexed. "Try as we will," they tell you, "we can't get our membership above fourteen. If you have a constructive idea, you can get people to do anything to help you. But they just won't join the Branch."

What is the reason? Might it be that folk are just plain scared at being committed to lamp-lighting, corporate prayers and cups of tea?

Over to you.

freedom of speech

The Editor welcomes letters on all matters concerning Toc H and asks that they be written briefly and to the point

Scouting for Ideas

THAT TOC H, which between the wars achieved a close working relationship with Scouting and helped to train many of its leaders, should now have little more than a nodding acquaintance with it, seems a strangely inexplicable situation. I hope I shall be proved wrong in saying that it is rare to find effective co-operation between the two Movements although both believe firmly in the "eternal realities" and find expression for this belief in unselfish service.

The Chief Scout, Sir Charles Maclean, a Toc H President, speaking to his Scout Leaders about their summer camps, asks them to prove that they are as imaginative as ever by introducing into their programmes this year something utterly new and different; offering a prize for the most original idea. Toc H Branches can help here by tactfully offering to work with the local troops in planning and executing a bright new 'Toc H job' or 'Good Turn'. In the past older Scouts have been of real help in geographical and geological research expeditions under the direction of enthusiastic adult scientists, and the membership of Toc H is surely full of experts in the field of community service and social work.

Toc H Volunteer and Pioneer groups, Joint Branches and units, Venture Scout units and Scout and Guide clubs are all seeking new modern expression for the basic ideals both Movements hold dear. This common work could become part of the new expression of the faith and purpose of both Movements.

All this of course if the local Toc H people know who their Scout Commissioner is and vice versa. The brave Branch which tries out this idea will not be forced to wear shorts!

D. A. YARDLEY WRIGHT
Toc H Area Schools Rep., Glos.
Scout Commissioner, Stroud & Tetbury.

Holidays for the Mentally Handicapped

OUR WEST CORNWALL SOCIETY for the Mentally Handicapped has two excellent holiday caravans for hire to families with mongoloid or otherwise mentally handicapped members, which we are prepared to let at pure cost rates (or even less in certain cases) to help the kind of families which anyone who deals with mental health work will know about and consider to be deserving cases. From one site we can, outside normal school holidays, have the youngster taken each school day by bus to a fine modern Training Centre run by our County Council and thus give the parents a daily break of some hours.

Initial enquiries should be sent to me at 9 Sampson's Terrace, Connor Downs, Hayle, Cornwall.

GORDON ROBERTS
Chairman, W. Cornwall Society for the Mentally Handicapped.

Five Stars for Go!

UNTIL RECENTLY A MOTORIST filling his tank with somebody's Super-Plus Mixture could, if he was very unlucky, for all he knew have been buying a liquid more suitable for topping up hurricane lamps. Now, although it is admitted that there is more in petrol than octane values, the star-rating gives him some guide to its performance.

Toc H Branches are regulated by a process of regrants. At its best, this is largely mechanical, at its worst it is a complete waste of time.

With the coming integration of Toc H and the Toc H Women's Association (which does not have a system of regrants) two questions are pressing to be answered; first, is it really necessary for the process of regrants to con-

tinue, and second, what can be done to make Districts or Areas apply their minds and energies to dealing with the Branch which has ceased to be an asset either to Toc H or the community?

One solution might be for Branches annually to be awarded a star-rating. Five stars would be reserved for just the very few top Branches in the country, and a rating of one star would call for an immediate investigation as to whether the Branch should be allowed to continue. Universal standards could be worked out to take account of numerical strength and other factors such as efficiency and fellowship. Competition would result from a continual process of attempts to reach top grading.

Gone would be the tendency for groups to rest on their laurels when they received Branch status, their goal would be to have 100-octane in their tanks!

NORMAN CHIDLEY

Loughton.

Our Finances

THE APPEARANCE of another Annual Report again emphasises the urgency for all Branches to make a special effort to combat the annual deficit. Other organisations such as Scouts and the Salvation Army have developed their own special fund-raising efforts. Perhaps it is not beyond the capacity of Toc H to devise its own particular scheme. Various means could be used, according to the preference of the member or Branch, e.g.:

1. Cut spending on tobacco, drinks, meals taken out, etc. by a half.
2. Sell any unwanted gift, white elephant, etc.
3. Earn money by decorating, gardening, repairs, motor maintenance, etc., for neighbours or friends.
4. Run a bring and buy sale.
5. A raffle.

It is suggested that for a special effort a specific week in each year would be nominated, during which every member would try to raise £1, the week to be known as "Pound Apiece Week". The effort should be organised by someone other than the Branch Treasurer and co-ordinated at District level. Cash raised should be kept strictly separate from normal funds and care taken that the effort did not affect any existing activities.

'FARMER' GILES

Eltham.

MOVED BY THE SPIRIT

DENNIS HOTSON

"TOO MUCH RELIGION" was the comment of one member as he read through the new winter programme. As an experienced (and overworked) Branch Secretary I recognised one of the regular criticisms and I knew this chap in particular would be critical for he hardly ever came to meetings—in fact the original "Ernie" prototype.

This winter our series of "Let's find out" brought to us an assortment of local ministers of diverse religious denominations and as the weeks progressed we heard from the Baptists, the Anglicans and the Salvationists, but it was obvious to the programme organisers that the members awaited with considerable apprehension the night when the Spiritualists were to be our guests.

Eventually the evening arrived, the attendance being slightly above normal with some twenty-five present. Our guests had asked

to be called for after we had dealt with our normal Branch business, by which time we had been compelled to bring up a seldom-used form from the basement for the use of any late comers at the back of the room. This too was soon fully occupied.

Eventually our guests arrived and were made welcome. It was obvious that this was one of those occasions when anything could happen—something we were quite used to in our Branch! After all, were we not once called out on a Sunday to help a man in his hour of need when his only pair of trousers was stolen from the launderette, confining the poor fellow to his bed? And was there not an evening when the Fire Officer was our guest speaker and the alarm sounded in the middle of his talk? (Whether by design or accident we have often wondered).

We listened intently as the spiritualist lady told us how to get in touch with those gone on before and gave details of their interesting beliefs. Then it was question time and many were keen for further explanations and to try and discover if they themselves had the necessary qualifications for communing with the other side. Our friend—the "there's too much religion" one—seated near the front, said that he had recently had a premonition. "Does this make me one of them?" "Yes, very likely," he was told (thus confirming our doubts of the past years). Question followed question—"How about a séance?" asked one.

"Would it be possible to hold one in this room?" We were delighted to hear that the atmosphere of our room—described by the speaker as 'blue'—was just about right. I slipped a note to the chairman suggesting that if a 'blue' atmosphere was necessary wouldn't it be a good idea to invite our guests to the next A.G.M.

The fact that the atmosphere was "just right" caused a stir in the room as we wondered if anything was about to happen. Suddenly our speaker raised her hands and eyes heavenward and said: "I feel that at any moment something could happen in this very room." It did! With perfect timing that could not have been bettered in the finest West End theatre her statement was followed by a crack and a groan as the 'seldom-used form' gave up the ghost, its occupants sinking in an undignified heap to the floor.

Picking himself up, white-faced with shock, Bill was heard to declare "My Gawd —they've got us!!!" The meeting closed in uproar, certain of our numbers having been well and truly "moved by the spirit".

In the Know

Notes from the General Secretary

KENNETH PRIDEAUX-BRUNE was appointed Editor of the Toc H JOURNAL at the beginning of June. He will continue his work with Clayton and Winant Volunteers. He is being assisted in his Editorial work by COLIN GIBBS whose appointment as Associate Editor is also announced. They will hold these appointments in respect of the new periodical which is to replace the Toc H JOURNAL, the LOG and NEW FORUM as from January, 1968.

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE MEETINGS. The Central Executives of Toc H and Toc H Women's Association have agreed to meet together on five occasions between now and the 1968 Central Council to consider matters of joint and separate concern.

WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT, December 11/12. A reminder that it is not too early to arrange for the exchange of messages between units at home and overseas.

FRIENDS OF DOR KNAP. Friends not only support Dor Knap financially but are kept informed by regular News Letters of the work and development of the Centre. Details from Frank Kirk, 153 Welbeck Road, Long Eaton, Nottingham.

ALL SAINTS' DAY, November 1, 1967. An invitation is extended to any who are in London on All Saints' Day to attend the Corporate Communion in All Hallows at 6.30 p.m.

WINE AND CHEESE PARTY at The Holme, Bedford College, Regents Park, London, N.W.1., (by kind permission of the Governors) on Saturday 22 July 1967 at 6 p.m. Proceeds to Talbot House, Poperinge. Tickets (10s. each) from Miss C. L. A. Gordon, 3B Heathway Court, Finchley Road, London, N.W.3.

OPERATION ANTWERP, August 21 to September 1. The members of this project will be engaged in building a new staircase at The Grey Cat Youth Club If someone with the necessary expertise will go with them to direct operations. Does this mean you — or do you know of someone else who might volunteer? Information to Projects Centre, 41 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3, please.

THE JOURNAL LIST — MAY JOURNAL. Please note the following additions to the S.E. Regional Staff: E. ('TED') COUSINS, Warden Mark XX, Putney, and CHARLES POTTS, M.C. (West and South Sussex), 4 Lancastrian Grange, Tower Street, Chichester.

ALL CHANGE

Last April the Central Council decided in favour of a new publication to meet the needs of an integrated Movement. Foremost in this exercise must be a magazine title which reflects our position in the world and the significance of the new Movement.

Suggestions please to the Editor. Full details of judging, awards, etc. will be announced in the September JOURNAL.

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